

Great names decorate his pages—Stearne, Dun, Petty, Cheyne, Graves, Stokes, Corrigan, all of whom have earned undying fame. Professor Widdess gives short and sympathetic accounts of the lives and labours of all of these and several more. One of the most detailed of these concerns Sir Patrick Dun, and the strange history of his bequest to the College.

It is interesting to note the long and friendly association with the Royal College of Physicians of London which has continued for three hundred years. This friendship is reflected in the coat of arms granted by King Charles II in 1667, and issued at his command by the Ulster King-of-Arms. It resembles that of the London College in that it shows "in chief a hand celestial descending out of a cloud feeling the pulse of a hand terrestrial." In the London coat the lower compartment shows a pomegranate and fleur-de-lis, but the Irish one shows a harp, crowned. For some reason the terrestrial hand is now omitted from the device, except, apparently, when used by the President himself.

Professor Widdess has made but slight reference to the historical background of Ireland during this long period. There is a passing reference to the defeat of King James II which led to the College being named the King and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland. This clumsy label was discarded in 1890, and the College was granted its present prefix of "Royal," to which it still adheres, although Southern Ireland is now a republic outside the British Commonwealth.

It is with particular pleasure that I recommend this valuable and entertaining book. It is published by E. & S. Livingstone, of London and Edinburgh, and its format and ten illustrations are finely produced.

R. M.

**PRACTICAL BIOCHEMISTRY.** By H. Zwarenstein and V. E. Vander Schyff. Seventh Edition. (Pp. x + 106. 15s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1963.

This small book embodies the course in biochemistry given to medical students in the University of Cape Town. As such it must be considered as supplementing an organised series of lectures and it can be said at once that in this framework it succeeds admirably. It is astonishingly comprehensive in the range of principles covered and while necessarily abbreviated the instructions given for experimental procedures are clear and complete.

Of interest is the approach to the biochemistry of physiologically important enzymes where the enzymes are extracted from the relevant animal tissue and used for a study of their properties.

It is disappointing to see the old term "change in reaction" used to refer to an alteration in pH in a book with an essentially modern approach, but this, and the inherent defects of compression, are the only points in which the book can be said to be vulnerable.

D.W.N.

**THE OVARY.** Edited by Hugh G. Grady, M.D., and David E. Smith, M.D. (Pp. 896; figs. 193. 108s.) International Academy of Pathology Monograph. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1963.

This monograph by fourteen authors gives a very good summary of our present knowledge of the ovary. The contributions cover its embryology, its structure in infancy and childhood, the pathogenesis of sexual anomalies, the histology and histochemistry of the adult ovary, ovarian hormones, ovulation, androgenic and estrogenic lesions and non-functioning neoplasms. In each section an expert has been called to examine the present position of our knowledge. Each contains a useful bibliography. It is obvious that there are still serious deficiencies in our biochemical knowledge of the steroid hormones, and interesting to read that the beneficial effects of wedge resection in the Stein-Leventhal lesion are still inexplicable. The sections on ovarian tumours are particularly valuable to gynaecologists and pathologists. All workers in these fields should have this book readily available.

The illustrations are good and the publishers are to be commended.

J. H. B.